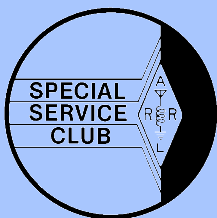




The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's **EXCITER**

GET INVOLVED

- RARS General Membership meeting: Second Tuesday of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night except Saturday @ 8 p.m. on 146.640.
- The RARS Technical & Trader's net: Saturdays @ 8:00 PM on 146.64.
- ~~RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the First Tuesday of each month.~~



PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

Interested in helping? Visit <https://www.rars.org/public-service.php>

frequently for our 2021 ham public service schedule.

RARS General Meeting

Main Topic: Homebrew building a transistor single conversion Superhet receiver.

Presenter: Alan Victor, W4AMV

Date: February 9, 2021

Time: Meeting at 7:30 PM, informal gathering at 7PM on Zoom.

Where: Zoom

Presidents Message

I just finished taking down the portable antenna I used for Winter Field Day. It seemed a bit too cold for me to set up an outdoor station, but I compromised and used the portable antenna. Lots of hams I contacted were working outdoors in colder weather than here, so my hat's off to them. I hope other RARS members enjoyed the two-day contest as much as I did.

The NC QSO party, sponsored by RARS, is one month from now, on February 28. I expect it to be a great time. This year's spelling bee is made up of 1X1 event stations with letters spelling "WOLFPACK." (Tarheels got their turn last year!) For rules and

[Continued on page 4](#)

RARS Officers

PRESIDENT

John Honeycutt
N8ZU
919.417.2477
jfh49@bellsouth.net

VICE PRESIDENT

Tom Lewis
N4TL
N4TL2@yahoo.com

SECRETARY

Mark Kilmer
KM4JRH
919.676.0110
mark.kilmer@gmail.com

TREASURER

Greg Seamster
KE4PAX
919.859.0029
KE4PAX@arrl.net



The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the amateur radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic needs; to educate members in radio technique, and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or on the RARS website.

<https://www.rars.org>

Exciter

The Exciter is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The Exciter welcomes articles, advertisements, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor. The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces. The submission deadline for each month's Exciter is the Saturday that is ten days before the general meeting. All submissions must be final. Drafts are not accepted.

The views expressed in the Exciter are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

Tom Lewis, N4TL, editor (editor@rars.org)

For Your Information

RARS General Meeting

Date: Second Tuesday of each month

Location: Ridge Road Baptist Church 2014
Ridge Road Raleigh, NC, 27607

Time: People begin arriving at 7 p.m. The
meeting officially begins at 7:30 p.m.

RARS Monthly Dinner

All members and guests are welcome to the monthly (first Tuesday) RARS Supper, 6:30PM, at the IHOP Restaurant, 7471 Six Forks road, 27615. Its on the corner of Six Forks road and Sawmill Road, 6:30 PM to 8PM They have a room for us that is to the left when you enter the restaurant. Informal and Dutch, just bring your appetite and best rag to chew.

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

145.130, 146.640 and 444.525

Join us for the nightly RARS net at 8 p.m. on the 146.640 repeater. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS members to the net.

There is a net Listing on the RARS website click here. <https://www.rars.org/nets.php>

VE Testing

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing in February, May, August and November at 5:30PM, prior to RARS membership meetings at Ridge Road Baptist Church; the RARSfest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARS-Fest in November; and following RARS license classes. Please bring a photo ID, your original and a copy of your current license, your \$14 exam fee, and any valid CSCEs that prove passing elements beyond that of your current license. Visit <https://www.rars.org> for more information.

RARS Net Monthly Summary

Checkins: 626

Minutes: 1333

Sessions: 32

Julie Royster KT4JR

RARS net manager

FREE

FREE

The AB4OZ HamFest will be SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2021.

10:00 am, Setup at 9:00 am. 6200
Glenwood Avenue, Raleigh, NC

in the Pleasant Valley Shopping
Center parking lot.

Weather permitting. Check on
[QRZ.com](https://www.qrz.com) to be sure its on.

Masks required around anyone not in
your household

Presidents Message continued

information, check out the web site, <http://ncqsoparty.org/>

For last month's Youth on the Air event, RARS youth director Brantley West, K4CBW, organized a RARS event for members and some young people who enjoyed operating with them. After they submitted their logs, Brantley printed certificates and made up some prize packages for the young participants. I was glad to see that there was so much local participation, and am appreciative that Brantley organized a local section of the YotA event.

In FCC news, after reviewing thousands of public comments on the subject of the \$50 fee that was originally proposed for all new and upgraded licenses, the Commission settled on a slightly lower \$35 fee, stating that the staff time required for this mostly automated system was less than originally estimated. The effective date has not been announced. As of today, new licenses and upgrades are still free, but that will change soon.

The FCC now requires amateur licensees to have a valid email address associated with their license. It might be smart for everyone to check out their listing in the FCC Universal Licensing System to make sure your email address is up to date, or to add one if necessary. The login page is here: <https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsEntry/licManager/login.jsp>. I found the FCC's tech support to be very helpful the first time I tried and failed to log into this system. Adding or editing your email address will not be subject to the mentioned above.

Alan Pitegoff, AB4OZ, has been busy organizing some outdoor events for hams. They are very welcome in this time of social distancing. His QRZ page has dates and times for the next outdoor "AB4OZ Ham Fest" at Pleasant Valley shopping center in Raleigh, as well as pictures and videos of the last few. The next one is on February 13, weather permitting. Check out Alan's QRZ page for the latest information, navigating from the call sign lookup page here: [AB4OZ - Callsign Lookup by QRZ Ham Radio](#)

I've made a little bit of progress toward my New Year's resolution to learn enough Morse code to make a few QSOs before next January. I got a late start this month, but have been practicing (almost) daily. My other resolution, getting antennas out of my attic and somewhere up in the air, will need to wait for warmer weather.

John Honeycutt, N8ZU

January 12, 2021 RARS meeting

The meeting was held on Zoom, as we have been since the covid-19 pandemic started. Many members connected from 7PM on. President John Honeycutt, N8ZU, ran the formal part of the meeting. See the meeting minutes on [page 25](#) for details. After the formal part of the meeting. Tom, N4TL, introduced Steve Milo, KI4KWR, GigaParts Brand Manager. He spoke about Currently available handheld transceivers.

Steve has been in radio communications for close to 30 years. Since January 2019 he has been the GigaParts Brand Ambassador for all brands offered by GigaParts.



Steve Milo, KI4KWR, talking about one of the transceivers that are available

Screen capture during the Zoom meeting

January 12, 2020 RARS meeting, continued

Steve Discussed the following:

ICOM IC-V86 7w HT

ID-52 constraint with parts

Kenwood

TH-D74 being discontinued

Yaesu current options

FT-3DR / FT-60 / FT-70 / FT-4XR which tends to be the most popular

Alinco DMR

DJ-MD5XT / MD5TGP and DJ-VX50T

Also discussed mobile radios and their features and new HF radios on the market. The Yaesu DX10 being on [Sherwood list](#) at #3 and only released back in November timeframe with its bigger brother the DX101D still at #1 on his chart. Also talked about digital hotspots like the DVMEGA and HCP-1.

Gave a GigaParts brief on Trade-In Program and what sells and does not, **especially the critical need to keep you boxes for all equipment.**

Best Regards,
Steve Molo (KI4KWR)
GigaParts Brand Manager

<https://www.gigaparts.com/products/radios-amps-and-repeaters>

January 12, 2020 RARS meeting, continued

Participants (73)

TL Tom Lewis (Me) N4TL	CK Chuck K4RGN	JS Joe Spears AF1E	RN Richard N1FUA
KAB KM4JRH - Mark (Host)	CK Cliff KA7NSU	JC John (KK4JCN)	Robert Cox (N4MN)
K KI4KWR - Steve (Co-host)	D dave-k4san	Joseph Tyson KM4WRQ	RK roger k4klk
JH John Honeycutt - N8ZU (Co-h	DK David KN4CUZ	K K2UCU - Tom	R Ryan - N7RYN
CD Carl Davis W8WZ	DP David Peterson KN8DAI	KL K4BYN Louis	SK Sam KN4RWI
MK MEME KE4NGM	DW dennis WZ0Q	KJ KB4JDL- Jeremy Lindsley	SW Steve W4MGT
A AC	Dick KD4ISC	K KD4KXI -Dan	TN Tom NC4TS
AG AJ4YA. Grady	DA Doug AD4UL	KM KD4OKR Mike	Tyler KO4BZA
AK AL KE4IHX	DN Doug N3LTV	KA ken AD4GX	W W4WHW - Bill
AS Al Sutton-N4EII	E Eric - NR4O	KN Ken, NC	WC WA4OSS Charles
AA Alan AB4OZ	EB Ernie Bauer - N1AEW	KK4ETS - Mike Eckardt	
A Andrea	GK Glen KE4NPZ	L Larry - K4LBX	
Barry NC4AZ	Greg KE4PAX	LR Lee Rogers WB4DRJ	
BW Bill Wade KO4GQL	Hank K4HM	M Michael	
BN Bob NC1X	HN HOWARD, N4KYW	MK Mike K4MBX	
BK Bob K4RLC	JK Jay KM4EP	MK Mike KN4DRN	
BN Bob. N4GEB	JK Jerry KE4TTS	NA N4AGG Albert	
Bobby, KO4JTR	JW Jim W1XR	N N4MQU Mark	
BK Brantley K4CBW	J Joe	NJ NC4JP, John	
CW Charles WB4DCM	Joe KO4KPV	PR Paul Rawlins - NE5PR	
CK charley KE4QBW	JO Joe Owen K4HEW	Richard - K7RLH	

73 RARS meeting
Participants.

Copied from Zoom
during the meeting.

Future RARS Meeting Topics

Titles, topics, and speakers **subject to change.**

3/9/2021	Awards, RARS Birthday Party & Bletchley Park presentation - History of the WWII Allied Code Breaking Centre Thanks to Bob Conder, K4RLC for setting this up.	Awards committee & Ray Burlingame-Goff, G4FON
4/13/2021	ARRL Update	ARRL NC Section Manager: Marvin Hoffman, WA4NC
5/11/2021	Two Field Day Logging programs N3FJP & N1MM	Tom Lewis N4TL
6/15/2021	Field Day	Field Day Chair Curt Phillips, W4CP
7/13/2021	HF Propagation Thanks to Bill Morine, N2COP for helping me find an expert	Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA http://k9la.us/
8/10/2021	NCPACKET, a several-county-wide only-on-ham-radio social network.	Tadd Torborg, KA2DEW
9/14/2021	Wind turbines, solar power & traditional ways of generating electricity	Brian Henderson, VE6ZS

During the Zoom meetings please keep your microphone muted.

The next few meeting of RARS will be held using Zoom at 7:30PM. Zoom is a conferencing application that runs on computers, tablets and phones. The meeting ID will be sent out to everyone via email.

Quick start guide for new Zoom users

https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/360034967471-Quick-start-guide-for-new-users#h_b0c98dfa-d90f-486d-9617-71ab7b41a273

Zoom help center

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us>

During all of our Zoom meetings please edit your name so your call is shown. Do a right click on your own image and choose rename. Add your call after your name. Thanks.

<https://www.rars.org>

RARS Birthdays

Rick	KN4ORA	02/01
Sue	W2GHK	02/02
Ted	W4NE	02/02
Selene	KG4RMT	02/03
LOS	AF0AA	02/03
Lillian	KC4AYH	02/04
Grady	KJ4RZU	02/05
Artie	KC2JFU	02/05
Craig	N4WV	02/06
Larry	N4LEW	02/07
Kevin	K0KRR	02/07
Cliff	KA7NSU	02/10
Yo Yoon	KD1AB	02/10
Greg	KN4DRP	02/13
Dennis	WZ0Q	02/13
Tom	N4TL	02/13
Tony	K1OC	02/14
Kathy	N4KLW	02/15
Roy	KT4EM	02/15
Dave	KK4ELT	02/16
Jim	W2PAU	02/16
Dick	WW4NC	02/16
Garth	KJ4GQW	02/17
Howard	N4KYW	02/19
Roger	K4KDX	02/20
Israel	N4ZVU	02/21
Joe	N1LVN	02/21
Steve	KE4COB	02/22
Tony	KO4EBO	02/23
Charlie	WA3UTC	02/24
Joe	W4TTO	02/25
Bob	WX4MMM	02/26
Carl	W8WZ	02/26

*Everyone is
welcome!*



Every Thursday there is a “**Taco Thursday**” Lunch at the Taco Bell, 7036 Knightdale Blvd, Newbern Ave. (Business 64) in Knightdale. We eat outside so bring a chair and Join the Tailgate Party. Weather permitting.

Once in a while a **Free Hamfest** is held at the Pleasant Valley Shopping Center. To find the next date go to the entry for AB4OZ in QRZ.COM. Alan posts the information there.

RARS Birthdays continued

Bruce	W8TWT	02/27
Kathleen	KM4CSF	02/28
Mary	KG4OQA	02/28

New Members

Crystal Suazo	KO4KPS
John Boling	KO4LDW
Hannah Boling	KO4LDX
JB Bell	KJ4ACB

NC QSO Party

Marty Young, W4MY, NCQP Chairman

The North Carolina QSO Party is a fun operating event that puts all of we Tarheel radio enthusiasts in the spotlight. RARS is the sponsor and those of us on the NCQP committee do everything we can to make it a great event. But what is it, exactly? Think of Field Day without the heat, bugs, rain, gasoline smell, and stale coffee. But with the HF band jam packed with signals all wanting to talk to you!

Unlike Field Day, it IS a contest! One where fabulous prizes, fame, and notoriety can be had. Well, not really, but we hams do like a challenge, don't we? Seriously, its a time to get on the air and connect with others all over the world seeking a contact with North Carolina.

Here are the particulars for those who are already familiar with this event. If you're not, get up with someone in RARS who is. They would be happy to be your Elmer in getting you up to speed.

It all takes place 1500 UTC February 28, 2021 to 0100 UTC March 1, 2021. (**10 am to 8 pm EST on February 28, 2021**). All stations may operate the entire contest period. Logs are due March 15. And, this will be the last year for paper logs. We held out as long as we could. Its time. If you are still using paper while operating, that's fine. Its just each participant will be responsible in 2022 for getting it into the acceptable electronic form when submitting the results to us.

There is now a high and low power category for each of the Phone, CW, and Mixed modes. We made some other small changes to the categories removing the out-of-state Multi-Op as well.

SOMETHING BRAND NEW: A GigaParts (<https://www.gigaparts.com>) gift card in the amount of \$150 will go to the In-State entrant who makes the most combined QSO's on 20, 15, and 10 meters. This is a major prize, certainly worth the effort to do. Don't be too quick to move to 75/80 with this prize on the line. See the rules for complete details.

Check out Spelling Bee Bonus. Stations with 1x1 call signs will be on the air giving out QSOs. Each letter of the suffix in the call will spell out "WOLFPACK" See if you can work all of them for a sweep!

Lastly, we want to acknowledge our sponsors. Clubs, individuals, and affiliated groups have given money to help support RARS' ability to put this event on, and we are very grateful. Thank you!

Check out the website, www.ncqsoparty.org for the rules and latest information on what's going on. I am looking forward to hearing and working everyone!

Very 73 to all.

NC QSP Party video

North Carolina QSO Party Interview with Jim, K4QPL and Tad, K3TD January 16, 2021 describing their mobile operations in NCQP. With Marty Young W4MY.

Recorded by Marc, W4MPS, at the AB4OZ mini Hamfest January 16, 2021

<https://youtu.be/PVPBt7wiHRQ>

LoTW

ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW) is a computer system that matches reports of QSOs from both participants and provides evidence of QSOs for ARRL awards such as DXCC as well as personal logs. In that sense, LoTW is a form of electronic QSL. About 150,000 hams worldwide are registered for LoTW. Many logging packages support LoTW.

However, LoTW is widely perceived as complex to register for, install, and configure. A group of hams has just published a user guide at https://www.g4ifb.com/LoTW_New_User_Guide.pdf. This is not an official ARRL publication, but it seems to cover the material quite well.

73, Chuck, K4RGN

On the air light

<http://www.w1air.com/onairlight.htm>

20 meter beam

R7AB's 12 el 14 MHz band Yagi. Boom length 40m. Self-supported tower 42 m high

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ixSgIIObE0s&feature=youtu.be>

Sent to the exciter by Chuck K4HF

<https://www.rars.org>

ARRL Kids' Day

Several local youth took to the airwaves on January 2, 2021 for the semiannual ARRL Kids' Day event. This event provides an opportunity for youth to experience the excitement of amateur radio first hand. The event ran from 1:00-7:00pm EST on 2 meters through 160 meters. Contacts were logged as far away as New York and Minnesota. Several contacts were also made on our local RARS repeaters. Thank you to those who paused to chat!

This year RARS presented certificates to all youth participants. Additionally, each youth participant received a "handy ham" kit intended to foster an interest in the practical aspects of the hobby. The kit included electrical tape, heat shrink tubing, test leads, a pocket screwdriver, and zip ties. A special Drawdio kit was awarded to the K4DBZ station for the longest youth DX QSO. We hope the soldering went well, congratulations!

Thank you to all the youth participants, including Anna (age 7 operating WW4TCH), Camryn (operating K4DBZ), Charlie (age 6 operating K4CBW), Fiona (operating K4DBZ), Jude (operating K4DBZ), Natalie (age 9 operating KO4FIY), Quinn (operating K4DBZ), and Sibley Ann (age 8 operating K4CBW).

The next Kids' Day will be on June 19th, the Saturday before Field Day. But why wait until then? The NC QSO Party on February 28th is a great opportunity to invite youth to operate. We hope to hear you on the air!



73

Brantley West, K4CBW

RARS Youth Director

RARS-L The RARS email List

Keep up-to-date with this email list

Copied from the RARS.ORG website

RARS maintains a **Members Only** automated e-mail list (sometimes called an “Email Reflector”). All RARS members are encouraged to subscribe to the **rars-l email list**. The email list is the fastest way to broadcast information to the RARS membership. Any mail sent by a subscriber to the email reflector will automatically be forwarded to all subscribed email address. Only subscribed members can send email to the list server. All messages should be related to amateur radio and/or RARS.

How to sign up

You can subscribe to the list by simply sending a “Subscribe” command to the list itself. Just send an email to rars-l-request@lists.deltaforce.net with the word subscribe as the subject of the email leaving the body text blank.

For most email clients you can just click here -> [SUBSCRIBE](#) and press the send button.

The list server will see the address from which you send your email and will queue your subscription request for the list moderators to approve. The email list server also will send you a confirmation message. Follow the instructions in the message.

If your name or callsign are **not clear** from your e-mail address, send a note to Hank, K4HM from the [RARS Contacts](#) page and tell him who you are. It may take a day or two for him to confirm your subscription, so be patient. Once confirmed, you'll receive instructions on how to use the list.

Current list subscribers can update their subscription information, set options, see the list of subscribers and more at <http://lists.deltaforce.net/mailman/listinfo/rars-l>

NOTE: The RARS-L Mailing List is primarily a **private way to communicate with other RARS members via email**. If you are more interested in a way to publicly post forum style messages to communicate with members and non-members please sign up for the [RARS Group](#) at Groups.io.

RARS Classifieds

Copied from <https://www.rars.org/classifieds.php>

The items below were listed within the last 30 days on the RARS website.

Misc Ham Radio Gear

Posted February 1st, 2021 by: K4HF

Contact: k4hf@arrl.net

Midland AM/FM/WX Alarm Radio A/c/Batt Powered - \$10

Radio Shack Atomic Radio Clock, Model 63-970, Batt/AC Powered - \$10

Heath HM-102 HF SWR/Pwr Meter, excel condx - \$25

RL Drake TV-1000 Low Pass Filter - \$10

RL Drake TV-300 HP High Pass Filter - \$10

MFJ 949E HF 300 Watt Antenna Tuner - \$95

Bencher Chrome Keyer Paddle - \$90

Astron RS20A 13.8VDC 20/16A - \$50

Astron RS20M 13.8VDC 20/16A w/meter - \$60

Yaesu FT-50R Dual Band H/T, w/drop in chgr, spkr mike, mobile 1/4w antenna - \$135

Uniden 9000XLT Scanner w/GRE UHF GRE Converter - \$150

Contact me by E Mail, preferred, or (919) 872-6555 Thanks, Chuck

ICOM- IC-706 MKIIG and LDG antenna tuner for sale - Listing for K4SPY

Posted January 28th, 2021 by: KA9QJT

Contact: ka9qjt@hotmail.com

I'm listing these on behalf of Kenneth Fish, K4SPY:

ICOM IC-706 MKIIG, with originally included accessories. \$675

LDG Electronics Z-11 PRO Antenna Tuner, with interface cable for the IC-706 MKIIG. \$125

All were purchased new and are in near-new condition.

Please contact Kenneth directly, by calling (or texting) 919-614-1771.

RARS Classifieds continued

FS: BK Precision Model 2160 Oscilloscope

Posted January 16th, 2021 by: KN4AAG

Contact: kevin.estep@gmail.com

BK Precision Model 2160, 60 MHz, dual channel analog oscilloscope for sale, in good working order, with power cable and two probes.

\$100

E-mail, text, or call (919) 302-9063

FS: Rigblaster M8

Posted January 10th, 2021 by: KN4AAG

Contact: kevin.estep@gmail.com

Rigblaster M8, complete with all cables, power adapter, and CD in original box. Looks completely unused.

\$50 OBO

E-mail or call (919) 302-9063

FS: ICOM PS-125 Power Supply

Posted January 9th, 2021 by: KN4AAG

Contact: kevin.estep@gmail.com

I have an ICOM PS-125 power supply, 13.8VDC @ 25A. This was used with my ICOM-746 Pro. It occasionally has some fan noise, but otherwise works perfectly. A few minor scratches on the top surface.

\$125

E-mail or call (919) 302-9063

FS: 2 x 6146B and 1 x 12BY7 for Kenwood TS-530s and others

Posted January 9th, 2021 by: KN4AAG

Contact: kevin.estep@gmail.com

I have (2) 6146B final amplifier tubes and (1) 12BY7 driver tube used in the Kenwood TS-530s and other radios. They were purchased at JARSfest as tested good in 2018 for a radio I no longer have.

\$50 for the set, OBO

E-mail or call (919) 302-9063

RARS Classifieds continued

FOR SALE

Posted January 8th, 2021 by: WB4UFO

Contact: gfrski1948@yahoo.com

KENWOOD TS-480HX 200W HF/6 RIG EXC WORKING 700.

KENWOOD TS-120 EXC WORKING 200.

MOTOTROLA MICOM -2E HF 1.6-30MHZ 150W WORKS GREAT 1000.

CONTACT INFO gfrski1948@yahoo.com or 919-665-0833

I WILL SHOW THESE AT MY QTH WORKING DURING PICKUP

TNX JOHN WB4UFO

Xiegu G90 QRP radios - New In Box

Posted January 3rd, 2021 by: KS9F

Contact: delsner@rensle.com

XYL says I have too many radios. I ended up buying an IC-705 for QRP

I had 2 of these and 1 has been sold.

This is new in the box and has been sitting on my bench for a while so I decided to sell it.

HRO is selling them for \$425 and I am asking \$325 each.

email or call me (m) 919-623-0120

Other Ham Radio newsletters.

Contesting club

http://pvrc.org/Newsletters/2021_02.pdf

http://pvrc.org/Newsletters/2021_01.pdf

Forsyth Amateur Radio Club

<http://www.dwepe.com/FARCNewsletters/y2021m01.pdf>

<https://www.rars.org>



Picture one

1994 RARS Pictures

Tom Swanson, N4IZE, found some old RARS pictures and sent them to the Exciter editor. How many of the people in these pictures can you name? Let me know and I will run them again next month with names and callsigns.

73 N4TL

July 1994 replacing a damaged antenna.



Picture two



Picture three

1994 RARS Pictures



Tower



New
Antenna



Tom Swanson, N4IZE, also sent this 1984 banquet picture

RARS Board Meeting Minutes – November 17, 2020

* This meeting was conducted over Zoom. Next months meeting will be Zoom as well.

John Honeycutt opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

The following were in attendance:

Members:

John Honeycutt - N8ZU

Tom Lewis - N4TL

Greg Seamster - KE4PAX

Chuck Littlewood - K4HF

Carl Davis - W8WZ

Hank Montgomery - K4HM

Tadd Torborg - KA2DEW

Alan Pitegoff - AB4OZ

Richard Kroeger – N1FUA

Ken Latchum - AD4GX

A quorum was present and the previous meeting minutes were approved.

John called for previous action item status:

John Honeycutt:

- Contact Marv Hoffman about presenting in April. (Complete)

John has scheduled Marv for April. Tom questioned the time allowed for Marv to talk and John indicated that he would have the entire presentation time.

RARS Board Meeting Minutes continued

Greg Seamster:

- Contact Jeff Wittich concerning the registration of the club repeaters. (Complete)

Greg contacted Jeff who indicated that the registration has been done. Greg has renewed the SERA membership.

Hank Montgomery:

- Add details of Mark Gibson's VE testing to the website. (Complete)

John asked if there are any preparations required for next months club meeting. Tom responded that Bob Heil will contact him the day before to verify that Zoom is working properly.

Officer/Committee Reports:

President: - John Honeycutt

John has been in contact with church and there are still no plans for opening it back up for meetings.

John brought up the possibility of canceling RARSfest for 2021. After a discussion of liabilities, financial concerns, lack of food service and questionable participation, the general consensus was to cancel the event. After John asking, Tadd made the motion to cancel, followed by a second by Alan. A vote was taken. RARSfest has been canceled for 2021. Greg questioned whether or not to approach the fairgrounds events coordinator to request returning the club deposit.

Tadd suggested a non-associated outdoor event, which was tabled for next meeting.

Treasurer: - Greg Seamster

We currently have 413 members. Greg reviewed assets and expenses. We will make a donation to NCQP which will be done after that party next year. Donations have been made to the Dick Bitner Benevolent Fund, and due to a previous discussion, has added the purpose as being for youth education to the notification letter. Some other donations to the club for education purposes have been added to said fund. John suggested deferring to the

RARS Board Meeting Minutes continued

Education Director and the Youth Director as to how the money should be spent as it is unclear at the moment. Currently monies from the fund have gone to pay for license exams and Boy Scout, Radio, merit badges. Carl suggested the the Youth Director approach the board for any plans that involve education and promoting radio for youth, and if approved, the expense should come from the fund.

Vice President: - Tom Lewis

Tom talked to Jeff, AC4ZO about re-doing the presentation on Awards and Wallpaper. That will be scheduled for next year. Tom will speak to a member of QCWA and see if he will do a presentation on wind turbines and other power generation.

Field Day Chair:

In Bobs absence, John noted that the FD certificates have been printed.

Repeater Chair: Chuck DeCourt

Gave his report to John and Alan for presentation. Alan presented.

Site visits have been made. The 145.13 suffered an outage due to cables being cut during a fiber installation. Restoration has been made. The 445.25 went down due an issue with Duke Power. Danny Hampton is still trying to arrange climbers for the 146.640.

Exciter Editor: Tom Lewis

Questioned the title of Marv Hoffman's presentation. John indicated that no title has been assigned yet. Tom brought up the idea of putting up the source code for the Exciter so that a backup could pick it up and complete the publication in the event of Tom's absence. Hank asked if someone else has the software to do it with. Greg indicated that might have Publisher, but questioned the ability of someone else being able to perform the task. He did suggest that the code be made available in the BoD section of the website, along with instructions and suggestions to do this.

ARRL Liaison: Chuck Littlewood

The deadline for submitting comments to the FCC concerning new fees has passed. Approximately 1300-1500 comments came in from NC.

RARS Board Meeting Minutes continued

Director at Large: Alan Pittegoft

Alan would like to remove the obsolete auto patch function from the 146.164, and remove the auto patch instructions from the web page and instead, point to the presentation Gary did on repeater etiquette. The group agreed.

Also noted that the membership form doesn't fit on the page.

Director at Large: Tadd Torborg

Expressed concern about the rars.io calendar updates, as he is not in the stream of information that needs to be modified or added. He would prefer that he not be responsible for the calendar. Public service announcements are already taken care of. Hank suggested that as current manager, he make the appropriate arrangements to have another individual to handle this. Also there was a bug that was causing events not to come out as they should. Is supposedly fixed but all events have to be deleted and recreated to pick up the fix. Hank agreed to do this.

Webmaster: Hank Montgomery

Due to a spamming issue on our forms, Hank has implemented a BOTCHECK, which requires human intervention in order to use the form. Also working on an issue that is not allowing quotation marks in the RARS classifieds and cleaning up some out of date pages. Hank needs a list of new officers.

VE Coordinators: Liz and Joe White

John noted that Joe's idea of testing in the large room had been shot down by the church.

General Discussions:

Greg Seamster questioned whether or not to put a link on the home page allowing people to submit general questions, and who they should go to. The group decided to use the existing "contacts" link.

RARS Board Meeting Minutes continued

Chuck has conversed with the event coordinator and he presented the various issues associated with holding an event at the fairgrounds, agreeing that the decision to cancel is appropriate. He then reiterated Greg's question of recovering our deposit. The board made the decision to move the deposit out to 2022, to reserve our date. Noted too, was the appreciation, of the Special Lifetime Memberships, from Jeff and Virginia, which was echoed by John.

Action Items:

John Honeycutt:

- Contact Marv Hoffman for the title of his presentation in April.
- Work with Tom to get the picture and make the Special Lifetime Membership award to Virginia.

Tom Lewis:

- Work up plan to out Exciter source code and instructions on the web site.
- Put the RARS*fest* cancellation notice in the Exciter.

Hank Montgomery:

- Look at membership form not fitting the page.
- Delete and recreate the events on rars.io to pick up bug fix.
- Remove information on the phone patch and create a link, instead, to Gary's repeater etiquette presentation.
- Put the RARS*fest* cancellation notice on the website

Chuck Littlewood

- Is waiting on a response from the NC State Fair to our proposal for 2022.

RARS Board Meeting Minutes continued

Announcements:

John Honeycutt:

Julie Royster (KT4JR) will be stepping in as the new Net Manager for next year.

John attended a meeting with all of the heads of all radio clubs in central NC to discuss how clubs are adapting to the current environment. They will meet again, probably next month. John suggested that this may be the place to open a discussion on whether to have a multi-club function. Carl suggested asking if any of the members have a farm or place to hold such an event. John also mentioned Alan's non-club affiliated pop up HAMfests and Taco Thursday, suggesting that they may want to engage in something as well.

Carl Davis:

Marty has updated their web page with the new rules for the QSO party. See the website for new changes.

John Honeycutt adjourned the meeting at 8:34 PM

* There will be no board meeting in December.

Meeting Minutes submitted by Mark Kilmer, KM4JRH;

Secretary, Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

RARS Membership Meeting – January 12, 2020

7:30 PM on Zoom

The meeting was called to order by John Honeycutt at 7:31 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Call for recognition of visitors, new members and license upgrades:

Visitors:

Paul Rawlins(NE5PR)

New members:

Bobby Huggett(KO4JTR), John Daniel(KK4JCN), Michael(No Call)

Quorum call:

A quorum was present.

Minutes for December, 2020 were approved.

Officer Reports:

President - John Honeycutt, N8ZU

The next Board meeting will be at 7:00 PM next week

Vice President - Tom Lewis, N4TL

The next club meeting topic will be "Homebrew building a transistor single conversion Superhet receiver" presented by Alan Victor, W4AMV, on zoom

Treasurer - Greg Seamster, KE4PAX

The club now has 425 members. The fee to Delta Force has been paid. Additional donations from NCQP have been received. Cash assets were noted.

RARS Membership Meeting Minutes continued

Secretary - Mark Kilmer, KM4JRH

No report

Specific Announcements or Reports from Directors:

Youth Director - Brantley West, K4CBW

For any operator who made a contact with a “kid” on ARRL Kid’s Day, please fill out an entry form with the details of the QSO.

Floor Opened for Additional Announcements or Reports from Directors or Members:

Tom Lewis noted that Mark Gibson(N4MQU) posted in chat, a link for license testing.

Tonight’s program:

Tom, N4TL, introduced Steve Milo, KI4KWR, GigaParts Brand Manager. He spoke about currently available handheld transceivers and a few other things.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:34 PM.

Next meeting date: February 9, 2021

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Mark Kilmer (KM4JRH)

Secretary

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society